



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Gaithersburg Man Convicted of 2017 Armed Robbery of Casino Employee

A Gaithersburg man has been convicted of the armed robbery of a casino employee after entering an Alford plea in Howard County Circuit on Monday. An Alford plea is a guilty plea that a defendant makes as part of a plea bargain, without actually admitting guilt but conceding that the state has sufficient evidence to convict. Stacey Eric Wilburn, 31, of the unit block of Melvin Street, entered the Alford plea to armed robbery, robbery, first-degree assault, theft and use of a firearm in a crime of violence for the January 27, 2017 armed robbery that occurred in the 7200 block of Maidstone Place in ElkrIDGE. It is Wilburn's second conviction for the armed robbery of a casino employee, both of which occurred on the same day.

According to police and prosecutors, Wilburn followed a pregnant, Howard County woman from the parking garage at Live! Casino at Arundel Mills to her ElkrIDGE home where he brandished a handgun and demanded her wallet. When Wilburn discovered no cash in the wallet he threatened the woman but allowed her to go inside her home to retrieve cash. When she returned with the money, Wilburn had vanished.

At Monday's hearing, Assistant States Attorney Jennifer Ritter stated that had the case gone to trial the victim would have testified that she was able to identify Wilburn from a photo array of suspects provided by the police two weeks after the robbery. Ritter said that casino garage surveillance video would show Wilburn running back to his car after observing the woman drive down the exit ramp. Wilburn's white SUV then exited the garage within a minute of the woman's departure in her vehicle. When Wilburn was arrested, a loaded Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun was recovered from his vehicle, along with boxes of ammunition.

Judge Richard S. Bernhardt set a sentencing date of March 9. Wilburn will be sentenced on February 21 in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court for the armed robbery of another casino employee and a third armed robbery that occurred on the same day as the robbery of the Howard County citizen.

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